

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

**Subject: Support the National Coastal Zone Management Program**

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy,

We write to express strong support for the National Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM Program) which the Administration is proposing to cut despite its value to coastal states and territories. This program has been a critical tool for states and its loss would be felt by all citizens that live, visit, and work in coastal regions.

Created by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1972, the CZM Program achieves multiple goals for coastal communities including economic development, enhancement of public access and recreation, and protection of coastal resources. States face unique challenges and the CZMA recognizes that states have the sovereign right to pursue their own solutions and manage uses of their own coastlines and submerged lands. The CZM program provides federal support for these state programs to ensure that as a nation, all coastal states and territories can enable their coastal communities to achieve both state and national priorities.

This state-federal partnership also enables states to leverage federal funds to streamline permits, provide grants to communities, and ensure federal actions are consistent with state laws. Moreover, the CZMA requires a dollar-for-dollar state match for almost all federal funding, with states matching over \$59 million FY2016. The state-match component demonstrates the state commitment to coastal management and it is a sound investment that leverages the benefit of every taxpayer dollar.

The CZM program has helped organizations and communities like ours achieve coastal management successes for over 44 years, with strong support from those of us that represent communities, businesses, and organizations listed below. It benefits all coastal states and territories, including the Great Lakes states, and we urge you to support full funding for this vital program.



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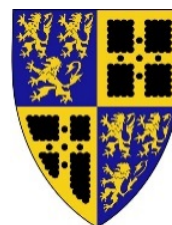
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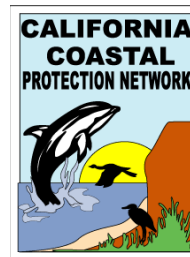
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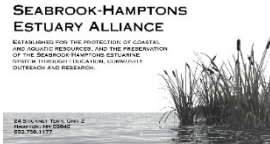
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